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HARVEST PREPARATIONS IN RUMANIA, JUNE 1952

In June, country-wide preparations were carried out in Rumania to prepare all facilities and equipment for a successful harvest. This preparation included repair of agricultural machinery, building of new storehouses for grain, cleaning and disinfection of old storehouses, repair and cleaning of railroad cars, and electrification of fields.

Ministries concerned with machinery or transport were directed to give all support to preparation for the harvest. The Ministry of Chemical and Metallurgical Industries was reported to have taken steps to assure a supply of materials and spare parts necessary for repair and maintenance of the agricultural inventory. It directed factories producing agricultural machinery and spare parts to allocate all necessary materials to fulfill the agricultural program. As a result, collectives in I.C. Frimu, Steagul Rosu, IMB Timisoara, 7 November in Craiova, Semanstoarea, Vasile Roaita, and other factories pledged early de-liveries of products. The Minister of Chemical and Metallurgical Industries also ordered metallurgical enterprises to collaborate with MTS repair centers, and to make available to them lathes, tools, and repair equipment.(1)

The Ministry of Electrical Energy and the Electrical Equipment Industry was assigned the task of preparing 372 electrified areas, including 121 new ones for the use of electrical harvesting equipment. By 20 June, 45 new areas had been electrified.(2) By 27 June, 90 percent, or 341, of the planned fields were electrified. Electrification was very successful in Buckrest, Timisoara, and Constanta regiuni, and the Campina area. Numerous fields in Arad and Hunedoars regiuni were electrified to permit the use of electric motors for threshing and harvesting equipment. (4)

The Ministry of Transports ordered all railroad freight depots and repair shops to prepare all means of transportation for the harvest.(2) The General Directorate of Automobile Transport of the Ministry of Transports ordered regional directorates and garages to prepare trucks and trailers for transport

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of the harvest.(5) On 29 June, it was reported that naval, truck, and rail transport were rapidly preparing for the harvest. Especially good work had been done at Targoviste, Ploesti, Ramincul-Sarat, and in Bucharest.(6)

Centrocoopul (Central Procurement Cooperative) made large-scale purchases to supply cooperatives throughout the country with equipment necessary for the harvest. Among its purchases were the following: 608,000 scythes, 301,000 sickles, 221 tons of forks, 517 tons of shovels, 47 tons of rakes, 141 tons of axes, 22 tons of picks, 107,500 blades for scythes, 65,000 anvils, 90,000 arm bands, 615,000 whetsones for scythes, and 47,500 scabbards for whetstones. Cooperatives throughout Rumania received 175 tons of string for binders, 100 tons of drum bands for threshers, 9,500 meters of cloth for reapers, 175 tons of sacks, 1,000 kilograms of small frames for sowing, hundreds of thousands of screws for plows, and transmission belts. In addition, they received the following chemicals: 2,186 tons of copper sulfate, 35 tons of formol, and 25 tons of carbone disulfide for disinfecting storehouses and for treatment of grains, and 21 tons of lime. This supply is 40 percent greater than that of 1951 and 60 percent greater than in 1950.(7)

Other preparation for the harvest included special threshing courses given in Barlad, Husi, Murgeni, Vaslui, and other raions.(8) Preparation of a special labor form was reported to be progressing well in Timisoara, Constanta, Bacau, and Cluj regiuni. Conditions were not satisfactory in Ialomita, Dolj, Teleorman, and other regiuni.(9) Threshing courses introduced Soviet methods, and showed how successful these could be in Rumania. For example, the Hgieni MTB in Ialomita Regiuni threshed 21,000 kilograms of grain in 8 hours, using a 1,350-millimeter MAV thresher, operated by an IAR tractor. The Segaracea MTS in Dolj Regune threshed 51,326 kilograms in 16 hours. The MTS in Bailesti threshed 25 tons of grain in the same period of time. An MTS in Odobeasca threshed 31,600 kilograms of wheat in 12 hours. Another MTS threshed 40,900 kilograms of wheat in 14 hours.(10)

Cluj, Rodia, Bihor, and Valcea regiuni were reported to have all tools repaired and ready. Arad, Dolj, and Iasi regiuni had 95 percent of the state farm equipment ready. However, Ialomita, Buzau, Constanta, Arges, and Galati regiuni were far behind schedule.(11)

Warehouses were ready in Galati, Baia Mare, and Putna regiuni by 18 June. In contrast Severin and Teleorman regune neglected to prepare places of storage. In Severin Regiune only 20 percent of the warehouses were ready.(12)

Repair on state farms was reported on 25 June to be 89 percent completed for tractors, 92 percent for reaper-binders, and 89 percent for threshers. Cluj, Bucharest, and Sibui regiuni were leaders.(13) On 9 June, the repair of machinery on state farms was as follows: mechanical rakes 93 percent complete, mechanical mowers 92 percent, tractor plows and discs 92 percent, graders 87 percent, simple reapers 79 percent, threshers 74 percent. and combines 65 percent.(14)

One thousand f'rst-aid stations each capable of serving one to three threshing teams were set up in Dolj Regiune.(15)

On 20 June, the following regiuni were declared to be the most advanced in preparation for harvest: Cluj, Timisoara, Stalin, Bacau, Galati, and Constanta.(16)

Preparation for the harvest by individual regiuni was as follows for June 1952:

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Baia-Mare

The repair of agricultural machinery was reported to be progressing well. Threshers, tractors, and mechanical rakes were being readied. In addition, contracts were signed with 400 working peasants to assure an adequate labor force. In Satulung 160 men were signed up for mowing.(14) A grain reception center was established at Botig.(17)

Bihor

The Oradea railroad repair depot prepared 44 freight cars for grain transport.(18) Electrification of fields was under way.(19)

Hunedoara

The repair program was satisfactory as of 27 June. Eighty percent of the grain storehouses were ready.(20) The IRES ("lectrical Enterprise of Sibiu) electrified areas of Hunedoara Regiune in preparation for harvesting. (21) A program of rapid repair was undertaken by the Alba-Iulia MTS, which is equipped with KD-35 tractors.(22)

Arad

Arad Regiune has mobilized all forces to repair equipment and to find new methods for a more rapid harvest. Tests were made for the operation of two threshers by a single tractor. (23) Storehouses were cleaned and disinfected. All equipment and sacks were made ready. (24)

Timisoara

In Timisoara Regiune 95 percent of the fire engines, buckets, picks and other fire-fighting equipment was ready by 21 June. Many areas were being electrified. MTS repairs were well advanced in Ortisoara, Sanicolaul-Mare, Lugoj, and Biled. However, MTS in Tiebling, Deta, Remetea-Mare, Bethausen, and parts of the Lugoj area were backward and were declared to be in need of more political work. (25)

Severin

In Moldova-Noua Raion grain reception centers, storehouses, fire-fighting equipment, and grain-handling equipment were prepared for harvest. (26)

Gorj

Repairs of equipment in Vanjul-Mare, Strehaia, and Huresani raions were behind. Grain storehouses were not repaired by 26 June although the plan called for completion by 20 June. The Regional Construction Enterprise of Gorj, and the Regional CFR (Rumanian Railroad System) of Craiova contracted to nelp prepare for the harvest, but also lagged behind in preparation. Storehouses in Filiasi and Strehaia, which were to have been built by the Regional Construction Enterprises of Dolj and Craiova were not completed. (27)

Dolj

Storehouses in the regione with the exception of the one in Greaca were ready for grain. (28) In Caracal Raior numerous towns had finished the repair plan by 25 May. (29) Repair of MTS equipment was reported finished in the raion by 20 June. Harvesting brigades were organized and ready. (30) Corabia Raion was rapidly preparing. (31)

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Teleorman

In Teleorman Regiune preparation for harvest was neglected. MTS were granted longer periods for repair than authorized by the decree of the Council of Ministers and of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Worker's Party of 6 June 1952.(32) Contracts were not signed within the prescribed period. Up to 19 June only 4 percent of the work capacity had been committed.(33)

Repair of simple reapers was 93 percent complete, of combines and threshers 96 percent complete, of tractors 94 percent and of thresher motors 100 percent by 15 June.(34) Oltenita Raion was well-supplied with harvesting equipment.(35) Transport and grain-handling facilities were being readied. (36) In Vidra Raion the Mihai-Bravu and Vidra storehouses were ready, but those in Toporu were not yet cleaned and disinfected by 18 June. In Giurgiu only a few storehouses were ready by that date. CFR storehouse No 1 was not ready to receive grain, for it still contained 16 carloads of old dried garlic.(37) The locomotive depot in Bucharest-Catatori was being prepared to handle harvest traffic.(38) The Bucharest office of the Regional Directorate of Automobile Transport was 90 per-

Prahova

Preparations for the harvest were poor in Ploesti Raion. (40) Balem, Comiseni, Doicesti, Hazvad, Teis, and Vacresti were electrified. Electrification was planned for Aninoasa, parts of Balem, Cobia, parts of Comisani, parts of Doicesti, Piersinari, Razvad, Sotanga, Suta, parts of Teis, and parts of Vacaresti. Specialists from Sovrompetrol in Targoviste and Ochiuri, and from the Electrical Enterprise of Targoviste volunteered to do a large part of the work. Machine repair was 80 percent completed by the end of June.(41)

Arges

Repairs progressed as planned in Slatina Raion. (42)

Valcea

The repair program in Valcea Regiune is going well. (43)

Sibiu

MTS were ready by 10 June. Four were singled out as outstanding -- in Prostea-Mare, Miercurea, Pianul, and Apoldu-de-Sus.(44) Preparation of equipment progressed well in Sighisoars Raion. (45) The IRES electrified areas in

Stalin

In Stalin Regiune 92 percent of the simple reapers were repaired by 27 June, 79 percent of the reaper-binders, 86 percent of the threshers, 94 percent of the motors. 87 percent of the trucks, and 93 percent of the sowing machines. (46)

Mures

The repair program was well advanced in Mures Regiune, according to one report.(47) Another source indicated, however, that insufficient machinery was available for harvesting, and that in parts of Ludus Raion there were no

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Botosani

Tractor repair was satisfactory. The repair of disks, graders, and reapers was completed by 9 June. However, threshers lagged behind, and not all plows were ready. In some areas the program fell far behind. For example, at Darabani only 60 percent of the tractors, 50 percent of the threshers, and 30 percent of the tractor plows were in operating condition. (49) Every effort was trying to ruin the program. (50)

Iasi

Grain reception centers in Buhaesti, Bacesti, Tespezi, and Soldan were ready by 20 June. Those which were behind schedule included Harlau, Pascani, Sarca, Podul Iloaiei, Bivolari, and Priscani.(51) Equipment repair in the region is reported to be on schedule.(52) The motor repair depot in Iasi fulfilled its plan 94 percent by 13 June. It performed tractor repairs for Barlad and Facau regiuni as well as for Iasi.(53)

Barlad

Fifteen new storehouses were built, 53 old ones repaired and cleaned, and 17 were disinfected.(54) The grain storage centers of Crasna, Falciu, Borleni, and Murgeni cleaned and prepared storehouses. However, other areas did not fulfill plans. Vaslui Raion was only 40 percent prepared for grain storage by 15 June. New construction in the regiume as a whole were reported to be behind schedule.(55) Vaslui Raion reported that electrification and preparation for transportation of grain was on schedule.(56) The CFR,RATA (Civilian Air Transport), and Sovromtransport were cooperating.(57)

The repair program in the regiune is unsatisfactory. All repairs were to have been completed by 15 June. However, by 23 June, repair on state and collective farms was as follows: threshers 77 percent, trucks 91 percent, motors 90 percent, simple reapers 76 percent and combines 70 percent. On private holdings repairs were as follows: threshers 64 percent, trucks 77 percent, tractors 95 percent, simple reapers 68 percent.(57) The MTB in Husi was behind as of 18 June, as follows: tractors 50 percent, threshers 87 percent, plows 17 percent.(58)

Putna

In Focsani and Panciu raions, electrification took place in some areas. (59) Ivesti and Focsani will be electrified. The Marasesti and Tecuci areas were prepared for the use of electrical equipment. (60) The regiune prepared 33,000 kilograms of fuel and 7,200 kilograms of oil. (61) In the field of transportation the CFR repair depot in Adjud prepared freight cars for grain transport. (62) Despite good preparations by MTS, their placement of contracts was below the plan. (61)

Buzau

Railroad repair yards prepared 25 cars and a number of locomotives for grain transport.(61)

Galati

The Prostea-Mare, Miercurea, Pianul, Apoldu-de-Sus, and Galati areas terminated repairs by 3 June.(63) A garage capable of handling 30 vehicles at one time was set up in Braila Raion.(64) The 1 May MTS in Braila Rayon, equipped with KD-35, IAR, and Delcoelectric tractors completed repairs by 15 June. Repairs at the Traian-Sat MTS were on time.(65)

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Islomita

The repair program in the regiune was reported to be behind. Only two tractors were repaired at the Jegalia MTS. Slobozia did little better. There was a failure throughout the regime to appoint commissions to examine the quality of the repair work. (66) Other preparations were satisfactory. For example, the Pietroiu State Farm prepared trailers containing sleeping quarters, libraries, and sanitary facilities for the use of peasants working in the fields.(66)

Constanta

Agricultural machinery was 80 percent ready by 1 June. More than 1,500 harvesters and combines were repaired in the region by that date. (67) The Regional Directorate for Civilian Navigation in Constanta was reported to be making every effort to prepare its installations and silos for the storage of grain /possibly for export/.(68) The Electrical Enterprises of Constanta electrified the following communities: N. Bacescu, Baia, Cobadin, Mihail Kogalniceanu, Cogealac, Agigea, Filimon Sarbu, Ovidiu, Ostrov. Laxu, Eforie, Navodari, Cernavoda, and Poarta Alba. Plans called for the electrification of the following additional communities: Novaci, Pociovalistea, Bala de Fier, Sacelu, Bengesti, Balcesti, Brabesti-Fiticusi, Poenari, Valal-lui-Traian, and Dorobantu.(69) Preparation in individual communities is illustrated by activities in Castelul. Brigades were organized, machinery and horses were readied. Two men were appointed to keep daily records, and youths volunteered to help with the harvest.(70)

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